



Museum Notes

A Publication for Members of the NIU Art Museum

Welcome New Members!

Holly Taylor

Renewals:

Michael and Elaine Bennett

Phillip & Gayalla Burchett

John & Nancy Castle

David and Linda Groat

Richard Grott

Douglas Moore

Nicholas & Virginia Noe

Helen Shirley

Marilyn Sjoholm

Deborah Smith-Shank

Alyce VanAcker

Thank you all for your support!

Director's Notes

Well, our staff is all back now from our vacations (Diana: South Dakota, Peter: Trinidad, Jo: North Carolina) and looking forward to a new school year and exciting exhibition season. The themes for this year's groupings of exhibitions and programming will be: Technology and Art; NIU School of Art Faculty; Pop Culture Influences; and Art of the New Deal Era.

We look forward to collaborating with a number of university and community members on these upcoming projects including: The Egyptian Theatre, the DeKalb Public Library, Loyola University, Chicago, Rare Books and Special Collections of the University Libraries, NIU School of Theatre and Dance, NIU School of Music, NIU Community School of the Arts, NIU Department of History; and the Department of Media Services.

As always there are many volunteers and good deed do-ers to thank for their support of the NIU Art Museum last season. Special thanks go to:

Little Copper Riding Hood, Renie Breskin Adams, Susan Etcoff Fraerman, and Sharon Wright for helping to fund the catalogue for Crossing Threads, Crossing Boundaries; **Ola Giza** for her taste and flair, and willingness to schlep artwork for the cause; **Matt Wilt** for taking all things in stride (even repeated skunkings); **Clair Williams** for sharing the art of being suave; **Emily Barney** for

transporting artwork to and from DeKalb; **Sun Choi** for pickled gourd recipes and persimmons; **Terri Smialek** for her general counsel; **Sherry Patterson** for knowing all things; **John Ugolini, Kickstand Productions** for organizing the Diagoah concert at The House; **Loose Lips Sink Ships and Picture Books**, two fab local bands for rounding out the evening with Diagoah; **Anna-Marie Coveny** for always being willing to help make things happen; **Michael Barnes** and **Ashley Nason** for being willing to do so much for their students and spawning print mania.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the lenders of **Käthe Kollwitz** work: **Mary-Glyn & John Boies**, **David and Sirojini Johnson**, **Jeff & Mary Kowalski**, **Peter Olson & Janean Koebbe**, the **Freeport Art Museum**, **Quincy Art Center**, **University of Northern Iowa Gallery of Art**, **The McLean County Arts Center**, **Wright Museum of Art**, **Beloit College**, and the **David & Alfred Smart Museum of Art**, **University of Chicago** for enabling us to highlight the work of this amazing artist; **Debbie Armstrong** of the **DeKalb Convention and Visitor's Bureau** and **Jennifer Groce** of **ReNew DeKalb** and crews for compiling goodie bags for the **Southern Graphics Conference** visit; **Bliss Beads**, **SMLTWN Skateboard Shop** and **The House** for being cool and collaborative and supportive of the arts; **Jerry Meyer** for his expert appraisal of the **Driesbach** prints; **Herb Deutsch** for his zenlike approach to computers and creative frenzy; **Steve Arntzen**, **Gary Burchett**, **Danny Cruz**, **Janean Koebbe**, **Gina Nicolosi**, and **Derek Strom** for being loving and supportive spouses who understand grants and exhibitions deadlines; the students in **ART 655 & ART 656** including **Amando Boncales**, **Kelly Carver**, **Brandyn Grove**, **Gene Meier**, **Emily Simkin**, **Zachary Thomas Tyler**, **Rachel Walters**, **Ron Weichel & Becky Weinstock**; the students in the **Burma Interest Group**: **Carolina Bodner**, **Brikena Boci**, **Coral Carlson**, **Zaw Win Htut**, **Ben Lemon**, **Tyler McKellar**, **Marvin Pasion**, **Dan Pojar, Jr.**, **Dan Restrepo**, **Lakshika Senarath-Gamage**, and **Rachel Walters**, especially for her extra work on the **Illinois Association of Museums Award** nominations.

Thank you for making 08-09 a terrific year. I am looking forward to another great year in 09-10 and hope to see all of you often.

Jo Burke

Fall 2009 Exhibition Suite

August 25 – October 10 Art & Technology Suite

Imperfect Models:

Jessica Gondek, Paintings and Prints

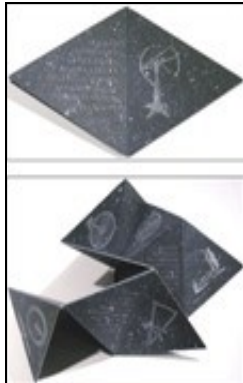
Solo show of abstract work by Montgomery artist Gondek who begins with compositions created via 3-D modeling programs that are then collaged and overprinted to reinterpret and humanize the computer-generated forms. The intermingling of hand and mechanical approaches in the work prompts a collision between intuition and computation.



Jessica Gondek, Unidentified Object, Oil and Digital Print on Canvas, 72 x 36", 2005.

Karen Hanmer: Retro Tech

Chicago artist Karen Hanmer looks back at early forms of technology to see their impact on us. Her *History and Technology* series of artist books link the creative process of the artist with that of the inventor, explorer or scientist through first person accounts and archival photographs and artifacts. Her installation *It is a Living Thing* documents interviews with software engineers regarding what they find beautiful or compelling about well-written software and the act of programming.



Karen Hanmer, Celestial Navigation, Pigment Inkjet Prints 6.75x5.75x.5" closed, 17.5x 30" open, 2008

Dimensional Figures and Environments: Artists Engaging Technology

Group exhibition of new media including digital printmaking and photography, rapid prototyping, and computer animation used by artists to examine three-dimensional form and space in ways that are at once familiar and strange, real and imaginary, combining fact with fiction. Includes digital photographs by Gloria DeFilipps Brush of Duluth, Minnesota; sculpture, video animations and digital prints by Gerald Guthrie of Champaign, Illinois; and sculpture and computer animations by Elona Van Gent of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Curated by Jessica Gondek, Loyola University, Chicago.



Elona Van Gent, Body In Mind Rapid Prototype Object - Stereolithography (Epoxy), 16 x 16 x 11" 2002



Gerald Guthrie, It Stands to Reason, Digital Print, 22.5 x 18.5", 1999.

October 27 – December 5, 2009

NIU School of Art Faculty Exhibition

All four gallery spaces will be filled with recent work by NIU School of Art Faculty including Art History, Art Education and Design displays in the Hall Case Gallery, a video/performance space in the North Gallery; and installations in the turrets off of the South Galleries. This exhibition will highlight the work of over fifty practicing Illinois artists who also share their love of art by teaching at the university. Programming will include a public series of artist's scholarly lectures and informal gallery talks, dates TBA.

Special Events

- **Thursday September 10, 4:30 – 7 p.m. Opening Reception for Technology Suite. Artist talks by Jessica Gondek, Gerald Guthrie and Karen Hanmer - 6:00 p.m., Altgeld Hall, Room 315.**
- **Wednesday September 16, Elona Van Gent will present a visiting artist lecture in JAH/VAB Room 111 at 5:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday September 24, Jessica Gondek will present a Curators Talk for Dimensional Figures and Environments: Artists Engaging Technology at 5:00 in the gallery.**
- **Thursday October 29, 4:30 – 7:00 p.m. Opening Reception for NIU School of Art Faculty Exhibition**

January 19 – March 5, 2010

Early spring exhibitions explore popular culture as an influence and means of dissemination of ideas.

Cannonball Press

Making black & white wood-block prints with a recipe calling for 1 idea, 6 smatterings kick-ass juice and 6 spoonfulls of jumpstart and holler, Mike Houston and Martin Mazorra run the explosive Cannonball Press in Brooklyn, New York. Once called “world kings of scruffy pirate black and white hillbilly printmaking” they present an unabashed voice in their art and are among the leaders of a recent revival of the woodcut medium.



Martin Mazorra, Fine Feathers Don't Make Fine Birds, Woodcut on heavy canvas banner., 36" x 48", n.d.

BLAB! Midwest

BLAB! Midwest focuses on the work of Midwestern artists featured in the acclaimed pages of **BLAB!** An annual arts anthology edited by Monte Beauchamp, **BLAB!** showcases graphic design, comic art and illustrations by contributors from all over the world who push the boundaries of visual culture.

Heroes, Villains and the American Zeitgeist

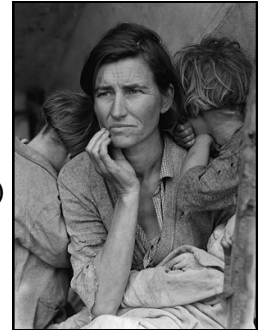
Comic books from the Rare Book and Special Collections of the University Libraries. From Captain America to The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen these comics demonstrate the telling of morality tales of their time. Curated by Lynne Thomas, Director, Rare Books and Special Collections, NIU.

April 8 – May 28, 2010

Late spring exhibitions will explore the impact of the artwork and arts projects of the New Deal Era.

This Great Nation Will Endure

Some of our most compelling and memorable images of the Great Depression were a result of the Farm Security Administration (FSA) documentary photography project coordinated by Roy Stryker. These images depicted the impact of the Great Depression on both rural and urban communities and were instrumental in eliciting support for the New Deal projects. Traveling exhibition organized by the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum includes photographs and films.



Dorothea Lange, Migrant Mother, 1936.

Coming of Age: The WPA/FAP Graphic Section and the American Print

New Deal prints and graphics spread the word for American unity and survival and put artists to work through the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The artists not only explored new subjects such as “social viewpoint” art, but gave fine art status to printmaking by creating the Silk Screen Unit of the WPA/FAP (Federal Art Project) and promoted public interest in this new medium. Co-organized with students enrolled in “Exhibition Interpretation,” a graduate-level Museum Studies course taught by WPA scholar and printmaker Peter Van Ael.

New Deal Era Images and Objects

Changing exhibits related to the New Deal period including novels on loan from Rare Books and Special Collections of the University Libraries and glass and ceramic ware of the depression era on loan from local collectors.

Special Events

- Thursday January 21, 4:30 – 7:00 pm Opening Reception for Pop Culture Suite.
- Thursday April 8th, 4:30 – 7:00 pm Opening Reception for New Deal Era exhibitions.
Concert and Commentary by Bucky Halker: *Woody Guthrie, The Great Depression and American Protest Songs* - 6:00 p.m. Altgeld Hall, room 315.
- Check our website for additional events and updates: www.niu.edu/artmuseum

Thank You for your Membership

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Is it time to renew?

We don't send members
 renewal reminders. Please
 take a look at the date
 following your name on
 the mailing label to see
 when your membership is
 scheduled to expire.

Thank you.

Get-On-The-Bus 2009-2010

Friday September 11, First Friday & Museum of Contemporary Art

We will visit the MCA to view *Take Your Time* phenomenological tech-based installations by Olafur Eliasson and drop off at both River North and West Loop Gallery districts for the annual Chicago Gallery Season Openings. Bus departs from NIU School of Art Parking Lot at 12 noon; return arrival @ 10:30 p.m. Cost of transportation: NIU Art Museum Members: \$12.00 Students/Seniors 65+: \$15.00 others: \$18.00 MCA admission is \$12.00 for adults, \$7.00 for students/seniors with ID, www.mcachicago.org. **Registration/Payment deadline Tuesday Sept 8.**

Saturday September 26, OR October 24, Technology and Art trip to

Milwaukee: Stops will include the Milwaukee Art Museum and the Discovery World Museum. Details TBA

Saturday November 7, Faculty Studio Tour -Details TBA

Saturday February 14, Chinese New Year & Valentine's Day - Chinatown Chicago - Details TBA

St. Louis - Overnight Pop Culture Extravaganza - Spring 2010

Details TBA

Saturday May 15, Chicago Area WPA Mural Tour - Details TBA

Friday June 11, Chicago Architecture Tour - Details TBA

Please note - Trips are added and changed throughout the year - members receive priority notification and you may also check our website:

NIU Art Museum Staff:

Museum Director: Jo Burke

Assistant Director: Pete Olson

Coordinator of Marketing/Education:

Diana Arntzen

Exhibition Advisory Committee:

Audre Anderson

Michael Bennett

Joe Bonomo

Karen Brown

Peter Van Ael

Education Advisory Panel:

Debra Booth

Cynthia Hellyer-Heinz

Shei-Chau Wang

Christine Woywood

We're on the Web:
www.niu.edu/artmuseum
Facebook & ArtSlant
www.niuartmuseum.blogspot.co

NIU Art Museum
Algelid Hall 116
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois 60115
(815)-753-1936
Gallery Hours:
Tuesday - Friday 10:00 - 5:00
Saturday 12:00 - 4:00
And by appointment.

